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Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

ROBERT M. ZWEIMAN
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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EA #

82-1594

June 23, 1982

The Honorable William Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

We are writing out of deep concern for one of this country's top career diplomats, Morton Abramowitz, who served with distinction in senior positions in the State Department and in the Pentagon under both Democratic and Republican administrations. He exercised vision in fighting against the Carter plan to withdraw American ground forces from South Korea. More recently, his dedicated efforts as Ambassador to Thailand earned him the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Service last year.

Given his expertise in East Asian Affairs, it was only natural that the President personally called Abramowitz to say, "you're my man for Indonesia," and to offer him the Ambassadorship there.

Inexplicably, the State Department recently withdrew his appointment. The sole reason stated was that the Indonesian government would not accept Abramowitz as Ambassador. It is now widely believed that a scurrilous and inaccurate anonymous memorandum about Abramowitz -- which falsely maligned his politics and character -- was circulated by "personal" enemies from the Pentagon and the C.I.A. Eventually this found its way into the hands of President Suharto of Indonesia, whose Foreign Minister was later to tell Secretary Haig that "the well has been poisoned." In doing so, Indonesia took the rare step of rejecting out of hand a Presidential choice for Ambassador.

Who was responsible for this attack is a question of grave concern. At stake is more than the able service of Ambassador Abramowitz. The Presidential appointment process is called into question. Moreover, the innuendo in the memorandum that it "would be inappropriate to send a Jewish Ambassador to an Islamic country" further undermines the credibility of the process by which we train professional diplomats at home and exercise our foreign policy abroad.

Allegations suggest that this memorandum originated in part from the C.I.A., possibly even from [redacted] STAT

[redacted] Internal political and personal differences should never be allowed to subvert our foreign policy system. This is a precedent that cannot be countenanced, and it is of the utmost importance that the unanswered questions surrounding this case be resolved.



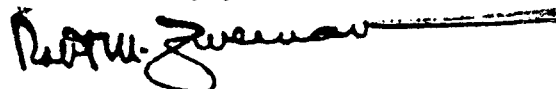
Mr. William Casey

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We therefore ask that your office institute a complete investigation and offer us a full explanation as to why Morton Abramowitz was denied his Ambassadorship to Indonesia, and any role that the C.I.A. may have played in this affair.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Zweiman", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. Zweiman
National Commander